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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/682,896	10/30/2001	Kazuo Nemoto	JP920000341US1	2332

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IBM CORPORATION, T.J. WATSON RESEARCH CENTER
P.O. BOX 218
YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, NY 10598

EXAMINER

CHAWAN, VIJAY B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2654

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DATE MAILED: 09/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/682,896

Applicant(s)

NEMOTO, KAZUO

Examiner

Vijay B. Chawan

Art Unit

2654

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 13-18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 9-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 5-8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/11/02</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 7, is objected to because of the following informalities: at line 6 of the claim should "whereat" be "wherein"? . Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hirano et al., (5,293,464).

As per claim 1, Hirano et al., teach an input apparatus comprising:

input means having multiple keys some of which are assigned to six dots for Braille (Col.3, lines 12-17);

key identification means for identifying said keys that are manipulated (Col.3, lines 12-20);

Braille specification means for specifying Braille dot combinations based on the locations of said keys identified by said key identification means (Col.3, lines 12-20);

character conversion means for converting said specified Braille dot combinations into corresponding characters (Col.3, lines 41-48); and,

character data output means for outputting character data obtained by said character conversion means (Col3, lines 12-20, 41-48).

As per claim 2, Hirano et al., teach the input apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

speech synthesis means for generating speech synthesis data based on said character data produced by said character data output means (Col.3, lines 4-11, 22-24); and,

speech output means for outputting speech based on said speech synthesis data (Fig.1, item 1c).

4. Claims 3-4, 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Osdin (GB 2332172A).

As per claim 9 and 3, Osdin teaches a portable communication terminal comprising: a key body having operating keys on a surface (Fig.1); and a display body, pivotally connected to said key body, having a display panel on a surface wherein said key body and said display body can be folded together so that said

surface of said key body on which said operating keys are positioned and said surface of said display body on which said display panel is positioned are exposed (page 2, lines 9-19).

As per claim 10, Osdin teaches the portable communication terminal according to claim 9, further comprising:

a key protector for detecting manipulations of said operating keys (page 6, lines 9-23);

a processor for performing a process in accordance with said manipulations of said operating keys detected by said key detector (page 6, lines 9-23); and

a communication unit for outputting a signal to the outside based on the process performed by said processor, wherein said processor allocates six operating keys arranged in two columns and three rows, for dots used to specify a Braille dot combination that corresponds to said manipulations of said operating keys detected by said key detector, and outputs a signal representing a character corresponding to said specified Braille dot combination through said communication unit as said output signal (page 6, line 32- page 7, line 13).

As per claims 4 and 11, Osdin teaches the portable communication terminal according to claim 10, further comprising: a speech output unit for outputting speech, wherein said processor synthesizes speech based on characters obtained by conversion, and permits said speech output unit to release said speech (page 6, line 32- page 7, line 13).

As per claim 12, Osdin teaches the portable communication terminal according to claim 11, wherein said processor allocates dots for said Braille keys in a column at one end and in a column at the other end (Fig.1).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 5-8 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. Claims 13-18 are allowed.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kramer et al., (5,047,952) teach a communication system for deaf, deaf-blind, or non-vocal individuals using instrumented glove.

McKiel Jr., (5,287,102) teaches a method and system for enabling a blind computer user to locate icons in a graphical user interface.

Corder (5,387,104) teaches an instructional system for improving communications skills.

Fukumoto et al., (6,380,923) teaches full time wearable information managing device and method for the same.

Woolfson (4,694,494) teaches electronic memory devices for the blind.

Vanderheiden et al., (6,624,803) teach an interface for electronic devices providing improved access for people with disabilities.

Rao et al., (6,169,789) teach an intelligent keyboard.

Lenchik et al., (6,658,272) teach self configuring multiple element portable electronic device.

Waldman (5,311,175) teaches a method and apparatus for pre-identification of keys and switches.

Kanevsky et al., (6,665,642) teach transcoding system and method for improved access by users with special needs.


Brown et al., (6,546,431) teach data processing system and method for sharing user interface devices of a provider assistive technology application with disparate user assistive technology applications.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vijay B. Chawan whose telephone number is (703) 305-3836. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday Through Thursday 7-4.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on (703) 305-9645. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Vijay B. Chawan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2654

vbc
9/23/04

VIJAY CHAWAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER